

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 08814 231807Z POSS DUPE  
ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 L-03 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /047 W  
-----232015Z 109489 /23 45

P 231634Z DEC 76  
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9624  
INFO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

UNCLAS LISBON 8814

STATE FOR CU/IAP - ROBERT JONES  
USIA FOR IEU - ROBERT MCLAUGHLIN

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGSC OEXC  
SUBJ: SPORTS AGREEMENT

REF: STATE 278237

SUMMARY: U.S. SIGNS SPORTS PROTOCOL WITH GOP.  
PRESS COVERAGE, WITH EXCEPTION OF ANTICIPATED BLAST BY  
COMMUNIST DAILY, EXTREMELY FAVORABLE AND EXTENSIVE.

1. ON DECEMBER 22 AMBASSADOR AND SECSTATE FOR SPORTS  
JOAQUIM MANUEL BARROS DE SOUSA SIGNED SPORTS PROTOCOL FOR  
U.S. AND GOP, RESPECTIVELY.
  2. PORTUGUESE MEDIA TURNED OUT IN FULL TO COVER CEREMONY.  
TV NEWSCAST GAVE LENGTHY REPORT AND CARRIED AMBASSADOR'S  
REMARKS FOLLOWING SIGNING. AMBASSADOR ALSO GAVE RADIO INTER-  
VIEW WHICH WILL BE BROADCAST IN FEW DAYS.
  3. MORNING PAPERS DEC. 23 DEVOTED FRONT-PAGE SPACE TO  
EVENT, AND ALSO CARRIED PHOTOS AND COMPLETE TEXTS OF  
PROTOCOL AND AMBASSADOR'S REMARKS.
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4. PORTUGUESE MEDIA REACTED MOST FAVORABLY TO SPORTS  
PROTOCOL SIGNING SINCE THEY AWARE THAT FOR PAST TWO AND  
A HALF YEARS, UNDER COMMUNIST SECSTATE FOR SPORTS, ALL  
SPORTING ACTIVITY WAS DEVOTED EXCLUSIVELY TO COOPERATION  
WITH BLOC NATIONS. AFTERNOON DAILY "A LUTA", REFERRING

TO THIS SITUATION, SAID "PORTUGAL SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH U.S., EASTERN NATIONS MONOPLY ENDS", AND "O DIA" PRINTED "REMEMBER THAT THE FORMER LEADERSHIP OF SECRETARIAT OF SPORTS, ALIGNED WITH THE COMMUNIST PARTIES, WOULD ONLY PERMIT ACCORDS TO BE SIGNED WITH EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES." AS EXPECTED, COMMUNIST DAILY "O DIARIO" ATTACKED THE ACCORD BITTERLY AS A "SELLOUT". PRESS MADE PROMINENT NOTE OF AMBASSADOR'S STATEMENT TO EFFECT THAT "JUST AS THERE ARE SUPER-STARS IN SPORTS, PORTUGAL HAS BECOME KNOWN WORLD-WIDE THESE PAST TWO AND A HALF YEARS AS THE SUPERSTAR OF DEMOCRACY"..

5. FORWARDING COPY OF PROTOCOL SEPARATELY.

COMMENT: AS EVIDENCED BY HEAVY AND FAVORABLE PRESS REACTION SPORTS PROTOCOL SIGNING CARRIES MOST IMPORTANT POLITICAL MESSAGE AS WELL.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
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**Disposition Comment:**  
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**To:** STATE  
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